

The grave of F.M. Sloan: Using indirect evidence to prove identity

F.M. Sloan is buried in Carney Cemetery in Carney, Lincoln County, Oklahoma. His military marker bears the inscription SERG'T FM SLOAN CO B 1 KY CAV but there are no birth or death dates. His obituary supplies the date of death, 23 November 1904, but tells us nothing about him:

"F.M. Sloan, who lived eight miles southwest of town, died Wednesday evening. The remains were buried in the cemetery at this place Friday afternoon, N.B. Jones conducted the services at the church and at the grave."¹

Oklahoma did not start filing death certificates until 1908² and the application for F.M. Sloan's military headstone has not been located which might have provided a requesting family member's name.³

Mistaken identity

The likeliest occupant of the grave looked to be F.M. Sloan, a 55-year-old native of Kentucky who was living in nearby Cleveland County in 1900,⁴ but the grave was originally attributed to Francis M. Sloan, a 50-year-old Tennessee native found in Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory in the same census⁵ who could not be ruled out by a review of his records and Francis M. Sloan's military service record.

The F.M. Sloan living in Cleveland County was Francis Marion Sloan of Casey County, Kentucky, and expanding the research scope to include his birth family, his children and his grandchildren yielded ample indirect evidence proving that the grave belongs to him.⁶ Family connections were found in the cemetery where F.M. Sloan is buried and in

¹ *Carney (Okla.) Enterprise*, 26 November 1904 (Saturday), p. 6, col. 2; digital image, *The Gateway to Oklahoma History* (<https://gateway.okhistory.org/> : accessed 7 February 2019); path: Start> Explore by: Publication Title> Carney Enterprise.

² "Oklahoma State Vital Records Index," database, *Ok2Explore* (<https://ok2explore.health.ok.gov/> : 2016); path: Start> Search Death Records> Search Tips, para. 1.

³ No headstone application was found in a strategic search of the following collections: "U.S., Headstones Provided for Deceased Union Civil War Veterans, 1861-1904" at *Ancestry.com*; "U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1970" at *Ancestry.com*; "United States Headstone Applications for U.S. Military Veterans, 1925-1949" at *FamilySearch.org*; and "Headstone Applications, 1925-1963" at *Fold3.com*. The government has been furnishing headstones for unmarked veterans' graves in private cemeteries since 1879 ("History of Government Furnished Headstones and Markers," para. 6; *National Cemetery Association*, <https://www.cem.va.gov/history/hmhists.asp> : last updated 17 April 2015).

⁴ 1900 U.S. census, Cleveland County, Oklahoma [Territory], population schedule, Norman Township, enumeration district (ED) 0034, p. 154 (stamped), dwelling 28, family 28, F.M. Sloan; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : 2004), citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll no. not stated.

⁵ 1900 U.S. census, Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory, population schedule, Township 1, enumeration district (ED) 0121, p. [123B], dwelling 567, family 568, Francis M. Sloan; digital image, *Ancestry.com*, citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll no. not stated.

⁶ *Findagrave.com* (<https://www.findagrave.com>), photograph, military headstone for F.M. Sloan (no dates), memorial no. 100444133, Carney, Oklahoma. As the result of intermittent correspondence beginning in February 2017, the memorial was transferred to this writer by Connie, *Findagrave.com*

the county where the cemetery is located. The pension record contains affidavits that connect the veteran to Casey County and the timeline of events in the pension history dovetail geographically and temporally with vital events in the lives of Francis Marion Sloan's children. Together they document this family's migratory path from Casey County to Texas in the late 1880s and from Texas to Oklahoma Territory by 1896.

Francis M. Sloan's compiled service record

There are nine cards in this record with the name variously shown as Frank Sloan (or Slone), Francis M.T. Sloan and Francis M. Sloan.⁷ Below is a summary of the cards arranged chronologically:

- Sloan, Francis M.T., Co. A, 1 Kentucky Cav., Private/Sergeant;
- Frank Sloan, Pvt. Co. A, 1 Reg't Kentucky Cav., age 21, muster-in roll dated Sept. 20, 1863 Knoxville, Tenn., enrolled Mar. 15, 1863 at Stanford, Ky. for 3 years, present;
- Frank Slone, same rank etc., muster roll dated Mch & Apl. 1863, absent, "a prisoner of war";
- Frank Sloan, same rank etc., muster roll dated Sept. & Oct., 1863, present;
- Frank Sloan, same rank etc., muster roll dated Jan. & Feb., 1864, present;
- Francis M. T. Sloan, same rank etc., muster roll dated Jul. & Aug., 1864, present;
- Francis M.T. Sloan, same rank etc., age 19, muster-out roll dated Dec. 31, 1864 Camp Nelson, Ky., transferred, time unexpired;
- Francis M. Sloan, Sergt., New Co. B, 1 Reg't Kentucky Cav., muster roll dated Jan. & Feb. 1865, present, appointed commissary sergeant for company Feb. 1, 1865;
- Francis M. Sloan, 5 Sergt., New Co. B, 1 Reg't Kentucky Cav., age 19, muster-out roll dated Sep. 30, 1865 Louisville, Ky.

These dates and events align with the service review provided by the Record and Pension Office on 26 January 1901 to the Commissioner of Pensions (the pension record is discussed in detail below).

member no. 47996633, on 19 September 2017 and has since been updated. Francis's full name comes from the Social Security application of his son: Marion Chirle Sloan, SS no. 443-10-9040, 15 December 1936, Application for Account Number (Form SS-5), Social Security Administration, Baltimore, Maryland.

⁷ Compiled service record, Francis M.T. Sloan, Pvt./Sgt., Co. A, 1 Kentucky Cav.; digital images, *Fold3.com* (<https://www.fold3.com> : accessed 2 January 2017), citing Carded Records, Volunteer Organizations, Civil War; Records of the Adjutant General's Office, Record Group 94; National Archives, Washington, D.C. His service and pension records are the only ones found that show a middle initial T. The Record and Pension Office notes the "prisoner of war" notation but there is no further mention of it in Francis's pension record and nothing more is so far known.

Background: Francis Marion Sloan of Casey County, Kentucky

Francis was the son of James K. Sloan and Nancy King⁸ and his family was living in Casey County when the 1850 census was taken.⁹

His birthplace was consistently reported as Kentucky and census records yield a birth year from 1841 to 1845; it was reported as November 1844 in 1900. The ages shown in his compiled service record, above, are so inconsistent as to be unreliable; but of the seven declarations in his pension file in which he gave an age, six are consistent with a November 1844 birthdate depending on whether he rounded up or down.

Francis married Isabelle Durham in Casey County on 23 February 1869¹⁰ and they had seven known children together. Isabelle last appeared in the 1880 census with Francis and their children Florence, Martha, Alonzo and Samantha,¹¹ but between 1884 and 1891 she had three more children named James, Maude and Marion who were living with their widowed father in 1900.

Family Connections: Carney Cemetery

The Carney Cemetery database shows F.M. Sloan as the owner (Deed #137) of the four plots in Block 4, Lot 59. One is empty and the other three are occupied by F.M. Sloan, Martha Almer Hughes and W.T. Hughes.

J.W. Sloan is identified as the owner (Deed #354) of the four plots in Block 2, Lot 35. One plot is empty and the other three are occupied by James Wm. Sloan, Vada Sloan and Maude Sloan.¹²

Martha Hughes, James Sloan and Maude Sloan were all children of Francis and occupants of F.M. Sloan's 1900 household.

⁸ Casey County, Kentucky, Marriage Register 1807-1918, p. 30, 4th entry, James Slown and Miss Ann King, 15 February 1825, marriage certification; digital image, "Kentucky, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1783-1965," database and images, *Ancestry.com* : 2016. The pages immediately before and after this one have a different format and concern much later marriages. No marriage bonds are available prior to 1872 according to the Casey County Clerk's office (606-787-6471, phone contact 29 November 2019).

⁹ 1850 U.S. census, Casey County, Kentucky, population schedule, District No. 1, p. [354B], dwelling 404, family 404, James Slone (indexed as Stone); digital image, *Ancestry.com* : 2009, citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 196.

¹⁰ Casey County Marriage Register, pp. 92 and [93], line 7, Francis M. Sloan and Isabella Durham, 23 February 1869, marriage. See also, "The parentage of Isabelle Durham Sloan" by this writer.

¹¹ 1880 U.S. census, Casey County, Kentucky, population schedule, District 21, enumeration district (ED) 021, p. 730 (stamped), dwelling 294, family 294, Isabelle Sloan, wife, age 30, in the household of Francis Sloan; digital image, *Ancestry.com* : 2010, citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 408.

¹² Gravesite Index, database (PDF), p. 46, I.D. 2261-2264, and pp. 14-15, I.D. 698-701; *Carney Cemetery, Lincoln County, Oklahoma* (<https://carneycemetery.com/gravesite-index> : last updated 20 July 2021). The database was an Excel spreadsheet when it was first accessed in March 2017. In both formats, it is apparent that many of the birth and death dates were auto-generated when the database was created, given the prevalence of entries with 1905 as both the birth and death year.

Ron Brown, the Carney Cemetery sexton, has almost no deeds with a number lower than 400 but was able to provide copies of two deed receipts: J.W. Sloan paid \$2 on 27 September 1921 for No. 137, the block owned by F.M. Sloan; and J. William Sloan paid \$45 on 19 June 1963 for No. 354, the block owned by J.W. Sloan.¹³ The date of F.M. Sloan's receipt so long after his death and the amount when compared to the other receipts on the two pages Mr. Brown provided, ranging from \$10 to \$75, suggest this may have been a final installment or interest still owing on the deed.

The death certificate for J.W. Sloan states that he was born in Kentucky on 11 May 1884 and died in Stillwater, Payne County, Oklahoma on 18 January 1968. He was married at the time he died, with his spouse identified as Vada Fent, and his parents were named as Francis M. Sloan and Isybelles Durham. Informant was Mrs. Minnie Holzer, Stillwater [his daughter]. Burial was at Carney Cemetery on 21 January 1968.¹⁴

Maude Della Sloan's death certificate states that she was born in Kentucky on 22 July 1886 and died in Stillwater, Payne County, Oklahoma on 3 August 1979. She never married and her parents were identified as F.M. Sloan and Isabelle Durham. Informant was Mrs. Violet Savage, Perkins, Oklahoma [née Violet Dupuy, daughter of her sister Samantha]. She was buried at Carney Cemetery on 5 August 1979.¹⁵

Martha Almer (Sloan) Hughes was married twice. She first married J.W. Lindsey in Fannin County, Texas in 1894¹⁶ but she was widowed by the 1900 census. She and her two children, Robert and Jimmy Lindsey, were captured twice, first in her father's household enumerated on June 4th (previously cited) and again in the household of her sister and brother-in-law, Florence and William Hughes, on June 29th.¹⁷ After Florence's death, Martha Lindsey and William Hughes married.

¹³ Ron Brown, Board Member and Sexton, Carney Cemetery Association, Carney, Oklahoma, 405-240-1076, notes from phone contacts 11 and 12 September 2018 about cemetery deeds, held by this writer.

¹⁴ Oklahoma Department of Health, death certificate no. 01868 (1968), J.W. Sloan; Vital Records, Oklahoma City; also, *Findagrave.com* memorial no. 105408259.

¹⁵ Oklahoma Department of Health, death certificate no. 17022 (1979), Maude Della Sloan; Vital Records, Oklahoma City; also, *Findagrave.com* memorial no. 105407998.

¹⁶ Fannin County, Texas, marriages, Vols. H-I (1892-1896), p. 602, Mr. J.W. Lindsey and Mattie A. Sloan, 3 December 1894, license and marriage; digital image, "Texas Marriages, 1837-1973," database and images, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://www.familysearch.org>; accessed 21 November 2019).

¹⁷ 1900 U.S. census, Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory, population schedule, Township 2, enumeration district (ED) 0136, p. 251 (stamped), dwelling 510, family 516, Mattie A. Lindsay, sister-in-law, and Robert and Jim [Lindsay], nephews, in the household of William Hughes; digital image, *Ancestry.com* : 2004, citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll no. not stated.

Family Connections: Cleveland County, Oklahoma Territory

Florence K. Sloan

The three marriages of Francis Sloan's daughter Florence help to connect a number of dots. First, she married A.S. Cravens in Collin County, Texas on 1 March 1891.¹⁸ Her second marriage was to A.J. Cross in Fannin County, Texas on 20 October 1895.¹⁹ Finally, she married William Hughes in Cleveland County, Oklahoma Territory on 25 December 1896, with F.M. Sloan named as the bride's father and as witness to the marriage.²⁰

Florence had one child from her first marriage, Ezra Volney Cravens, who said when he registered for the WWII draft that he was born on 16 July 1893 in Pottsboro, Texas (Grayson County).²¹ He appeared in the William Hughes household in 1900 as Walney Hughes, son, age 7, born in Texas in July 1892;²² but in December 1900 he was identified as the posthumous child of A.S. Cravens by the estate Administrator (who erroneously referred to him as C.W. Cravens and female):

"...there was an inadvertent omission of the minor C.W. Cravens a postumus child of decedent by his second wife about 7 years old & now living in the Indian Territory."

Comment: Cravens' will was published on 11 December 1892 and included provisions "[i]n case my wife shall have a child after my death." He was deceased by 27 May 1893, about a month and a half before Volney Cravens was born. On that date a notice was issued by the Clerk of the County Court that S.P. Collins had applied to administer the estate; according to a later record the person Craven named as Executor had declined to act.

¹⁸ Collin County, Texas, Marriage Record 8 (1891-1893), Mr. A.S. Cravens and Miss Florence K. Sloan, 1 March 1891, license and marriage certification; digital image, "Texas, County Marriage Records, 1837-1965," database and images, *FamilySearch.org* : accessed 2 September 2018.

¹⁹ Fannin County, Texas, marriages, Vols. H-I (1892-1896), Mr. A.J. Cross and Mrs. Florence Cravens, 20 October 1895, license and marriage certification; digital image, "Texas Marriages, 1837-1973," database and images, *FamilySearch.org* : accessed 21 November 2019.

²⁰ Cleveland County, Oklahoma Territory, Cleveland (1890-1932), n.p., William. P. Hughes and Mrs. Florence Cross, 29 December 1896, license and marriage certification; digital image, "Oklahoma, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1890-1995," database and images, *Ancestry.com* : 2016. The page numbers are stamped but out of order; the page of interest was truncated when filmed so the page number is missing but it is preceded by pages 476 and 477 and followed by 236 and 237. William's middle initial looks like a *P* but his middle name was *Tell* according to his son's obituary. In the license section Florence was originally designated as *Miss* but this was corrected to *Mrs.*, which is how she was recorded in the certification section.

²¹ "U.S., World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942," digital image, *Ancestry.com* : 2010, card for Ezra Volney Cravens, registered 27 April 1942, Local Draft Board 1, McAlester, Pittsylvania County, Oklahoma. A photo of his military marker is shown on memorial page no. 43309367 at *Findagrave.com*.

²² 1900 U.S. census, Chickasaw Nation, IT, pop. sch., Twp 2, ED 0136, p. 251 (stamped), dwell. 510, fam. 516, Walney Hughes in the household of William Hughes; digital image, *Ancestry.com*. Volney's birth year is reported as 1893 in his other records, i.e., SSDI, gravestone, military marker, WWI and WWII draft registrations.

In February 1901 the Administrator reported:

"Mrs. Florence Cravens is dead and the child C.W. Cravens now about nine years old has never received anything for her support."

F.M. Sloan, guardian, acknowledged receipt of the monies awarded to "Volney Cravens a minor heir to said decedent" on 4 April 1902 in Cleveland County.²³

Florence also had one child from her second marriage. Ancel Virgil Cross, shown in some records as Ancle Virgle Cross, said on his WWI draft registration that he was born in Fannin County, Texas on 6 November 1896.²⁴ He appeared in his mother and stepfather's 1900 household as Virgil Hughes, son, age 3, born in Texas in November 1896. In 1910, as Virgil Cross, he was living with his uncle, James Sloan.²⁵

In the aforementioned 1900 census it was reported that William and Florence Hughes had been married for ten years but this is contradicted by their 1896 marriage record and the records of her two previous marriages in 1891 and 1895. The household also includes a third child, identified as William's son James E. Hughes, born in Texas in February 1891. The number of children reported for Florence, 3 born and 3 still living, implies that she was the mother of all three children in the household but James was likely William's son from an earlier marriage. In 1910, his marriage to Martha was reported as his *second* one (cited below) but in 1930 it was reported that he married for the first time at age 19.²⁶ His age in this census yields a birth year of 1869, which is consistent with his grave marker, and he would have been 19 years old in about 1888, eight years before he married Florence.

²³ Collin County, Texas, Probate Packets, 1892-1893; A.S. Cravens, Yr 1893, 1893-007; images 635 through 848, especially 793, 801-802, 819-822 and 829; digital images, "Texas, Wills and Probate Records, 1833-1974," database and images, *Ancestry.com* : 2015. Cravens' will is recorded in Collin County Probate Minutes, Vol. L, part of the same collection, pp. 623-624, images 319-320. Florence Cravens acknowledged receipt of monies from A.S. Cravens' estate on 7 March 1894 with F.M. Sloan as a witness (image 703), but although the address on the attorney's letterhead is McKinney (Collin County) there is no indication of where Florence and F.M. Sloan were when they signed.

²⁴ "U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," digital image, *Ancestry.com* : 2005, card for Ancel Virgle Cross (signed as Ancle Virgle Cross), registered 5 June 1918, Local Draft Board for Chandler, Lincoln County, Oklahoma; place of birth was misreported as *Finning* County, which does not exist. Also, *Findagrave.com*, photograph, military marker for Ancel Virgil Cross (1896-1971), memorial no. 43389846, Holdenville, Oklahoma. His year of birth is shown as 1896 on his military marker but as 1898 on his gravestone. The first matches his WWI draft registration and SSDI record and is consistent with his mother's December 1896 remarriage as Mrs. Florence Cross.

²⁵ 1910 U.S. census, Greenwood County, Kansas, population schedule, South Salem, enumeration district (ED) 0034, p. [158B], dwelling 56, family 61, Virgil Cross, 13, nephew, in the household of J.W. Sloan; digital image, *Ancestry.com* : 2006, citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 441.

²⁶ 1930 U.S. census, Payne County, Oklahoma, population schedule, Stillwater, enumeration district (ED) 0031, p. [74B], dwelling 261, family 261, William T. Hughes; digital image, *Ancestry.com* : 2002, citing NARA microfilm publication T627, roll 1925.

Martha Almer Sloan

After her sister Florence's death, Martha married her brother-in-law William Hughes. In 1910 they were living in Colorado and their household included:²⁷

- W.F. Hughes, head, age 39, 2nd marriage, married 7 years, born in Kentucky, parents born in Virginia
- Almer Hughes, wife, age 37, 2nd marriage, married 7 years, 4 children born with 2 still living, born in Indiana, parents born in Kentucky
- Bueal Hughes, son, age 6, born in Oklahoma, father born in Kentucky, mother born in Indiana
- Robert Lindsey, stepson, age 13, born in Texas, father born in Kentucky, mother born in Indiana

Jimmy Lindsey, the younger of the two sons living with Martha in 1900, was apparently one of the two children who had not survived by 1910. The other would have been a child by this second marriage who has so far not been identified.

Martha Almer's birthplace was reported as Indiana in most censuses and there are indications that her father's family had ties there in Pike County: Francis's father James is said to have died there in 1870;²⁸ his brother Alexander married in Pike County in 1869 and died there in 1926;²⁹ and his sister Mary married there in 1872,³⁰ the year Martha was born according to her gravestone.

William and Martha's full names are given in the obituary of their son Buell Orville Hughes which states, "Hughes was born Dec. 4, 1904 at Corney, Okla. [*sic*] to

²⁷ 1910 U.S. census, Teller County, Colorado, population schedule, Cripple Creek City Precinct I, enumeration district (ED) 0192, p. [108B], dwelling 17, family 17, W.F. Hughes; digital image, *Ancestry.com* : 2006, citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 125. A Cleveland County, Oklahoma marriage record that may belong to them needs further review due to its conflicting information, most notably, the bride's honorific (*Miss Elmer Linsey*) and the marriage year (1900 vs. 1903).

²⁸ *Findagrave.com*, photograph, gravestone for James Sloan (1802-1870), memorial no. 31501081, Winslow, Indiana. The 1869 Pike County marriage of his son Alexander (next Note) and his daughter Mary's testimony that she left Casey County in 1869 to go to Indiana (see text referenced by Note 42) lend support to the claim that this grave is his.

²⁹ Pike County, Indiana, Marriage Records 1866-1879: Darrach Collection; p. 242 (upper left corner), Alexander Sloan and Paradine Hedges, 30 September 1869, license and marriage certification; digital image, "Indiana Marriages, 1811-2019," database and images, *FamilySearch.org* : accessed 21 November 2019. Alexander also died in Pike County: death certificate no. 22641, Alexander C. Sloan, 20 June 1926; digital image, "Indiana, Death Certificates, 1899-2011," database and images, *Ancestry.com* : 2015. According to his death certificate he was born in Kentucky on 16 March 1840 to James Sloan and Nancy King.

³⁰ *Ibid.*; same marriage collection and access date; p. 457, John C. Chancellor and Mary C. Sloan, 28 March 1872, license and marriage certification. Mary's death certificate states she was born in Humphrey, Kentucky (Casey County) on 6 June 1851 and identifies her parents as James K. Sloan and Nannie King: Casey County, Kentucky, death certificate no. 12929, Mary Kathern Chansler, 4 April 1923; digital image, "Kentucky, U.S., Death Records, 1852-1965," database and images, *Ancestry.com*: 2007. An obituary could not be located in the local papers (Staff <orders@caseylibrary.org>, to Donna Newman, e-mail, 3 December 2019, "Casey County newspapers").

William Tell Hughes and Martha Almer Sloan" and names among his survivors "half-brother Robert Lindsey."³¹

According to their gravestones, William died in 1939 and Martha in 1960,³² but it is unknown at this time where and exactly when they died. They were not found in the Oklahoma Death Index³³ and no obituary has been located for either of them. In 1940, the widowed Martha gave their April 1935 residence as Peabody, Kansas;³⁴ and in 1947, she and her sister Maude were reportedly living in Topeka, Kansas when their brother Alonzo died (cited below).

Family Connections: Francis M. Sloan's pension history

Relevant dates, locations and people named in the pension record are shown below.³⁵ Ten affidavits were given in support of this application; they include men who served with Francis, local acquaintances and a doctor who treated him over a 10-day period when he was ill. There are also two affidavits from people who knew Francis in Casey County, Kentucky and two from known or likely family members. J.M. Combest's statement suggests that Francis moved from Casey County to Texas between 1887 and 1889.

And as the timeline below shows, events in the application history occurred in three counties — two in Texas and the third in Oklahoma — where vital events in the lives of Francis's children and grandchildren also occurred.³⁶

³¹ "'Shorty' Hughes funeral tomorrow," *Augusta (Kans.) Daily Gazette*, 18 June 1987; digital image, *Digital Augusta* (<https://augusta.digitalsckls.info/> : accessed 21 September 2017).

³² *Findagrave.com*, photograph, gravestones for W.T. Hughes (1869-1939), memorial no. 79133159; and Martha Almer Hughes (1872-1960), memorial no. 79128666, Carney, Oklahoma.

³³ "Oklahoma State Vital Records Index," database, *Ok2Explore*. Attempts to make contact with local funeral homes in operation at the time have met with limited success but Strode Funeral Home, which handled the burials of J.W. and Maude Sloan, found no records for Martha or W.T. Hughes (Strode Funeral Home <strodefh@aol.com>, to Donna Newman, email, 22 November 2019, "Question about a past burial").

³⁴ 1940 U.S. census, Marion County, Kansas, population schedule, Peabody, enumeration district (ED) 58-30, p. [233B], visited no. 351, Martha A. Hughes; digital image, *Ancestry.com* : 2012, citing NARA microfilm publication 0627, roll m-t0627-01244.

³⁵ Francis M. Sloan (Sergt., Co. B, 1 Ky. Cav., Civil War), pension no. S.C. 575,727, Case Files of Approved Pension Applications of Veterans Who Served in the Army and Navy Mainly in the Civil War and War with Spain ("Civil War and Later Survivors' Certificates"), 1861-1934; Civil War and Later Pension Files; Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15; National Archives, Washington, D.C. See also, "Francis M. Sloan, Federal Military Pension Application – Complete File," a more detailed review of the pension file by this compiler dated 3 February 2017. As previously noted, the middle initial *T* has been found only in Francis's military service and pension records.

³⁶ Some vital events were cited previously. An F.M. Sloan was on personal property tax lists between 1889 and 1896 in each of the three abutting counties where Francis and/or his children were found but there were at least two F.M. Sloans living in that area at the time and the tax lists need a more extensive review to sort out which of them belong to the subject of this report.

Collin County, Texas

11 July 1890: F.M. Sloan filed his pension application in Collin County. He gave his age as 45 and said he was a resident of Anna. His application was witnessed by C.C. Riggins and J.M. Combest, both of Anna.

13 Aug 1890: Francis M Sloan, age 45, resident of Collin County, provided more detail about his service and disability. Witnesses were Carrel C. Riggins and Daniel C. Mason; both men provided affidavits but only Riggins knew Francis before his move to Texas and his affidavit is transcribed below.

3 December 1890: J.M. Combest, age 39, resident of Anna, made the following statement:

"This is to Sertify that I hav Bin Personly acquainted with the aforesaid Francis M. Sloan almost all of my life however I was not intimatly acquainted with him untill about Jan 1st 1882 after which time he lived on one of our Farms in Casey Co Ky untill Nov 1887 During which time I saw him as often as once a month he worked for us on the Farm we lived on som Every year of this time Except the Last Named year - 1887 During the year 1887 I worked a good Part of the time on the Farm that the aforesed Francis M. Sloan lived on I Removed to Collin Co Tex and Francis M Sloan Removed to Grayson Co Tex about the Distanc of 10 Miles he Remained in Grayson Co untill in December 1889 at which time he Removed to Collin Co within about 1 Mile of Me where he now lives... my age 39 years."

Comment: From J.M. Combest's age and his close association with Francis it is probable that this was James M. Combest, age 17, in the 1870 Casey County household of William (Riley) and Delilah Combest.³⁷ Delilah is believed to be Francis's older sister. She and Riley married in early 1850³⁸ and on the census that year they were in the household immediately following James and Nancy Sloan.³⁹ All three Combests are buried in Highland Cemetery in Collin County.⁴⁰

³⁷ 1870 U.S. census, Casey County, Kentucky, population schedule, Tates Precinct, p. 296 (stamped), dwelling 265, family 262, James M. Combest in the household of William Combest; digital image, *Ancestry.com* : 2009, citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 494.

³⁸ Casey County Marriage Register,, pp. 51-[52], line 17, William R. Combest and Delila Sloan, 28 February 1850.

³⁹ 1850 U.S. census, Casey County, Kentucky, population schedule, District No. 1, p. [354B], dwelling 405, family 405, Wm. R. Combest; digital image, *Ancestry.com* : 2009, citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 196.

⁴⁰ *Findagrave.com*, photograph, gravestone for James M. Combest (1851-1900), memorial no. 6637372, Melissa, Texas; also Delilah Combest (1827-1905), memorial no. 6637370, and William Riley Combest (1827-1890), memorial no. 32695453. Their gravestone photos are too difficult to read but the birth and death dates on Delilah's memorial page are corroborated by her death notice, which also gives the date

3 December 1890: C.C. Riggins, age 48, of Anna made the following statement:

"I was acquainted with Francis M Sloan and attended School with him when we were boys but have not met but been in the same Neighborhood since the late war til the years of 1886 and 1887 then in the present year I have lived in 3/4 of mile of said Sloan visited him often during a spell of sickness last July when he was confined to his room for some time his trouble seemed to have been in his stomach and bowels he does not have the appearance of being an able bodied man I would not suppose he could do more than 1/4 labor on an average"

Comment: Carrel C. Riggins witnessed Francis's declaration in August 1890, and a Carrel C. Riggins, age 18, was living in Casey County, Kentucky when the 1860 census was enumerated.⁴¹ These are all likely the same man. Riggins does not specifically name Casey County above but it's implied by where census records show Francis as a child and by the detailed references to the later time period in J.M. Combest's affidavit.

1 March 1891: Daughter Florence's first marriage, to A.S. Cravens.

Francis's location not known at the time of the following events

30 April 1891: Francis's pension was granted due to disease of heart, rate of \$6 per month. Enrolled at Knoxville Pension Agency.

30 January 1892: Affidavit of Mary C. Chancelor, age 40, Post Office address Phil, Casey County, Kentucky:

"That I have know Francis M Sloan all my Life and waited on him during a Spell of Fever and Agues which he had in the fall and winter of 1865 & 6 and also I was often with him and waited on him two years later during another Spell of Fever and agues which he had from August 1868 until the next Spring I saw him as often on an average as once a week from the time he got out of Service in September 1865 until in 1869 when I left Kentucky and moved to Indiana Since that time I have not seen him so often."

of her marriage to Wm. R. Combest (February 29th vs. the 28th as shown on the marriage record): "Mrs. Delilah Combest," *The Coweta (I.T.) Courier*, 26 October 1905, p. 1, col. 2; digital image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com> : accessed 17 May 2020).

⁴¹ 1860 U.S. census, Casey County, Kentucky, population schedule, District No. 4, p. 139 (stamped), dwelling 937, family 941, Carrel C. Riggins in the household of George W. Riggins; digital image, *Ancestry.com* : 2009, citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 361.

Comment: Mary was Francis's younger sister, who married John C. Chansler in Pike County, Indiana in 1872 and died in Casey County in 1923.⁴² Her reference to Francis getting out of service in September 1865 is consistent with the muster-out date shown in his service record.

20 Feb 1892: Martha Jane Putteete (signed as Pateete), age 42, resident of Anna, gave the following affidavit:

"I got acquainted with Franses M Slone in the fol of 1865 Soon after he returned home out of the servis i saw him often as onst aweeke during the fall and winter of of [065?] and [06?] he lived in [14?] [indecipherable] a mile of me during this time iremember his having Fever and ager difern times during the above mentioned time"

Comment: Some words were run together but that could just be a byproduct of Martha's handwriting skills. This may be the Martha Jane Perteete or Puttiet found with her husband Calvin in Casey County, Kentucky in 1870 and in Grayson County, Texas in 1900,⁴³ but no closer connection with Francis has been found. Martha does not specifically name Casey County in her statement but it's implied by the time frame given in Mary C. Chansler's affidavit.

Grayson County, Texas

4 April 1892: Francis M. Sloan, age 48, residence Van Alstyne, Grayson County, requested an increased rate for his pensioned disability. Witnesses were W.D. Echols and A. Morrison, both of Van Alstyne, Texas.

16 July 1893: Florence's son Ezra Volney Cravens was born in Pottsboro.

28 May 1894: Francis's son Alonzo married Ida Leatz.⁴⁴

Fannin County, Texas

Fannin County isn't mentioned in Francis's pension record but it abuts Collin and Grayson counties (see map, p. 14). Martha and Samantha Sloan married

⁴² See Note 30.

⁴³ 1870 U.S. census, Casey County, Kentucky, population schedule, p. 197 (stamped), dwelling 33, family 33, Martha J. Perteete, 21, in the household of Calvin Perteete; digital image, *Ancestry.com* : 2009, citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 454; and 1900 U.S. census, Grayson County, Texas, population schedule, Precinct #4, enumeration district (ED) 0107, p. [129B], dwelling 93, family 93; Martha J. Puttiet, wife, born in Kentucky in Aug 1849, in the household of Calvin Puttiet; digital image, *Ancestry.com*: 2004, citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 1640..

⁴⁴ Grayson County, Texas, marriages (1846-1965), p. 498, Alonzo Sloan and Ida Leatz, 28 May 1894, license and marriage certification; digital image, "Texas, U.S., Select County Marriage Records, 1837-2015", database and images, *Ancestry.com* : 2014. The page numbers are stamped but not in chronological order, with page 498 preceded by 417 and followed by 626.

for the first time here and it would have been usual at the time for them to marry from their parents' home.

3 December 1894: Daughter Martha's first marriage, to J.W. Lindsey.

20 October 1895: Daughter Florence's second marriage, to A.J. Cross.

24 December 1895: Daughter Samantha's marriage to R.C. Dupuy.⁴⁵

6 November 1896: Florence's son Ancel Virgil Cross was born.

Cleveland County, Oklahoma Territory

25 December 1896: Daughter Florence's third marriage, to William Hughes, witnessed by F.M. Sloan.

18 October 1899: Francis M. Sloan, age 56, resident of Franklin, gave power of attorney to Andrew T. Ross of Norman, Oklahoma to pursue an increase in his pension rate commensurate with his present disabilities.

4 April 1902: F.M. Sloan, guardian, acknowledged receipt of the legacy due to Volney Cravens, son of his deceased daughter Florence by her first husband.

29 Feb 1908: Francis was dropped from the pension rolls because of failure to claim his pension for 3 years. Last paid on 4 November 1904.

The date of the last pension payment is consistent with the reported death of F.M. Sloan on November 23rd.

Family Connections: Lincoln County, Oklahoma

A deed links Francis to Carney, Lincoln County, where F.M. Sloan's grave is located.

On 14 September 1903, Francis M. Sloan purchased Lots 7 through 12 in "Block No. Five, In Newsome's addition to Carney." When he sold them on 22 November 1904, the deed was witnessed by his son J.W. Sloan and his son-in-law R.C. Dupuy.⁴⁶ Unlike previous documents found for him through 1902, Francis signed this one with his mark instead of a signature, but he must have been gravely ill by then as he died the next day.

⁴⁵ Fannin County, Texas, marriages, Vols. H-I (1892-1896), p. 520, Mr. R.C. Dupuy and Miss Samantha Sloan, 24 December 1895, license and marriage certification; digital image, "Texas Marriages, 1837-1973," database and images, *FamilySearch.org* : accessed 21 November 2019.

⁴⁶ Lincoln County, Oklahoma Deed Record 16, p. 124, image 130, David F. and Letitia Newsome to Francis M. Sloan; Deed records, v. 16-19 (1903-1906), film no. 008563122, digital images, *FamilySearch.org* : accessed 17 January 2019. Also, same collection and access date, Deed Record 19, p. 124, image 1935, Francis M. Sloan to Elizabeth J. Rice.

And on 3 July 1909 his youngest child, Marion, petitioned the Lincoln County court to appoint J.W. Sloan as his guardian "[f]or the purpose of giving consent for him to marry."⁴⁷ In his petition Marion said that he was 18 years old; a resident of Wellston; and a minor child of F.M. and Isabelle Sloan, deceased; and that his brother J.W. Sloan and sister Alma Hughes were his only relatives living in Lincoln County. The petition was granted and Marion married Minnie May Youngblood the following day.⁴⁸

Other family connections

The obituary of Alonzo Sloan connects all of Francis and Isabelle Sloan's surviving children. It states that Alonzo was born in Kentucky on 11 May 1875 and died in Denison, Grayson County, Texas on 19 February 1947. His surviving family members included "three sisters, Mrs. Alma Hughes and Miss Maud Sloan, both of Topeka, Kas., and Mrs. Mancy Dupey, Oklahoma City; two brothers, J.W. Sloan, Stillwater, Okla., and M.C. Sloan, Madill, Calif."⁴⁹

"Mrs. Mancy Dupey" was Alonzo's sister Samantha Sloan, who was married to R.C. Dupuy. They were listed as Robt C and Samantha P Dupuy in the 1948 city directory for Oklahoma City.⁵⁰ R.C. Dupuy was a witness when Francis sold his Carney, Oklahoma property in 1904 and he was named as nearest relative when Florence's son Volney Cravens registered for the WWI draft in 1918.⁵¹

⁴⁷ Lincoln County, Oklahoma, County Court File No. 1121, Guardianship of Marain C. Sloan, 1909, Court Clerk's Office, Chandler. This is one of several packets missing from the original microfilm digitized at *FamilySearch.org* (Oklahoma, Lincoln County Probate Records, 1893-1929; Probate case files, no. 1082-1125, 1908-1909; film no. 008401467).

⁴⁸ Lincoln County, Oklahoma, Marriage Record Vol. 10, p. 373, Marain C. Sloan and Minnie May Youngblood, 4 July 1909; application, license and marriage certification; digital images, "Oklahoma, County Marriages, 1890-1995," database and images, *FamilySearch.org* : accessed 18 January 2019. There is reference to consent of the groom's guardian and bride's mother being attached to the application but they are not part of this record.

⁴⁹ "Mortuary," undated obituary ca. February 1947 identified as being from "Sherman Newspaper", originally submitted on 26 March 2015 by dardar0304 [pseudonym] to the Sloan Family Tree, *Ancestry.com*, <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/17127670> : accessed 5 February 2017. Neither the obituary nor his death certificate names his parents (Grayson County, Texas, death certificate no. 6819, Alonzo Sloan; digital image, "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982," database and images, *Ancestry.com* : 2013).

⁵⁰ "U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995," database and images, *Ancestry.com* : 2011.

⁵¹ "U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," database and images, *Ancestry.com*, card for Ezara Volney Cravens, Local Draft Board 26, Brooklyn, N.Y. Denison, Texas was reported as Dupuy's address and as Volney's permanent address; his registration in Brooklyn may have been related to his reported occupation, "Unemployed, Honorably released U.S. Navy." He signed the card as Ezra Volney Cravens.

M.C. Sloan was Alonzo's brother Marion C. Sloan. He was living in *Madera* County, California with his wife Minnie and their children by 1940.⁵²

Summary

A grave in Carney, Oklahoma marked by the military headstone of F.M. Sloan was originally attributed to the wrong man. But extensive research into a diverse group of records across three states provided indirect evidence sufficient to meet standards for genealogical proof and conclude that this grave belongs to Francis Marion Sloan of Casey County, Kentucky.

Grayson, Fannin and Collin counties in northern Texas, 1888⁵³



⁵² 1940 U.S. census, Madera County, California, population schedule, Township 3, enumeration district (ED) 20-10, p. [193B], visited no. 104, Marion Sloan; digital image, *Ancestry.com* : 2012, citing NARA microfilm publication T627, roll m-t0627-00260.

⁵³ "Map of Indian Territory (Oklahoma) 1888 from Britannica 9th ed." (cropped) by DigbyDalton, licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Oklahoma1885.jpg> [sic]: last edited on 22 October 2020, at 09:35.